FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MAY 1986

Libya

In a speech cited by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted that the recent U.S. air strike was another attempt by the forces of "traditional colonialism and new colonialism" to "subjugate" and "humiliate" the Arab nation, and dismissed the notion that the issue of terrorism was the basis of the attack. Al-Qadhdhafi said the Jamahiriyah was struck because it represents a "challenging, rising, and an inciting" force, and maintained that the "aggression" did not weaken but increased its determination to fight imperialism and Zionism. He cautioned that although the Jamahiriyah is still "saving its military force," it has the capability of destroying the U.S. 6th Fleet through suicide missions.

Although acknowledging the Egyptian people's hatred of the United States, he nevertheless condemned the "subservient cowardly" Egyptian regime, urging the Egyptian Army and masses to revolt, and warned it and any other Arab country granting facilities to the U.S. 6th Fleet that Libya "will fight" and "punish" them. He also spoke of a possible military attack against Egypt if the Jamahiriyah were to "smell" actions from it aimed at Libya, such as harboring "terrorists" or providing them with training and other support.

As for Western Europe, Al-Qadhdhafi called on Italy to "expel" the U.S. presence there, warning that the Jamahiriyah could not "turn a blind eye" in the event of future U.S. campaigns from that country, and would attempt to attack it. He also alleged that Western leaders secretly contacted him and said that although President Reagan is "crazy" we must deal with him.

The Libyan leader chided the policy of nonalignment which does not protect the small states, and claimed that Libya is, therefore, now closer to the socialist camp than ever before. Libya's chief delegate to the United Nations, 'Ali 'Abd al-Turyaki, disclosed that Libya had received "assurances" of Soviet aid going "beyond encouragement" and revealed that Libya may formalize its "very friendly relations" with the USSR by joining the Warsaw Pact, KUNA reported.

Syria

The Syrian Embassy in London "categorically" denied "involvement in or knowledge of" any alleged terrorist action on British territory, and particularly with regard to last month's El Al incident, according to SANA reporting an embassy statement. The embassy opined that the heightening of the "international smear campaign" against Syria is aimed at justifying a joint U.S.-Israeli "aggression" against it. In further reaction to allegations of Syrian involvement in a bombing attack on the Arab-German Friendship Society in West Berlin, the Syrian ambassador to the GDR, in a news conference reported by East Berlin Voice of GDR radio, asserted that the embassy had "absolutely nothing" to do with the attack, and revealed that Syria had demanded that it be involved in the investigation.

In other developments, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim "strongly rebutted" Syrian assertions of Iraqi involvement in the recent bombings inside Syria in a statement to INA. The Kuwaiti daily *AL-QABAS* claimed that President Hafiz al-Asad informed Jordan's King Husayn, during their recent meeting, of his readiness to reach "an understanding" with Egypt on conditions, including that country's "retraction" of the Camp David accords.

Israel-Syria

Jerusalem television reported that there are "no signs of tension" on the Israeli-Syrian border, according to Israeli "military" sources, who added that no "change" in the Syrian force's deployment has been observed, and "official" sources in Jerusalem stated that there have been no signs of Syrian "aggressive tendencies" toward Israel within the past few days, according to Jerusalem radio.

Meanwhile, in a statement to KUNA, Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi stated that implementation of Israel's "plan" to launch an "aggression" against Syria would have "dire consequences" for peace and security in the Middle East and "far beyond." Klibi also criticized the U.S. Vice President's recent statement linking Syria with terrorism, and noted that this was made after the U.S. official's meeting with the Israeli defense minister. The chief Libyan UN delegate, 'Ali 'Abd al-Turayki asserted that the United States and Israel are "preparing" public opinion for an attack on Syria, KUNA reported, and he warned that such an aggression would evolve into a war between the Arab states and the United States and Israel. In further allegations, Radio Monte Carlo cited Fatah's Salah Khalaf who revealed that Syria "may be" subjected to "imminent military aggression" by the United States and Israel according to "information" on the U.S.-Israeli "threats" to that country.

In other developments, Jerusalem radio reported that 10 Syrian commandoes captured in southern Lebanon will stand trial "next month" on charges of carrying arms and attempting to attack the IDF and the Army of Southern Lebanon.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil departed Tunisia 8 May following 3 days of talks with Tunisian officials during which he secured their "support" for his views regarding the "conflict" between him and senior Syrian officials on the way to resolve the Lebanese civil war, according to KUNA citing a "high-ranking diplomatic" source. Radio Monte Carlo, citing a diplomatic source in Cairo in a statement to REUTER, reported that Al-Jumayyil stopped over in Cairo on his way to Tunisia and had a meeting with the Egyptian president.

Iran-Iraq War

In further reaction to the recent Iraqi air strikes on Iranian economic and residential targets, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i warned Iraq of the consequences of a resumption of the "war of cities," and stressed that Iraq's attacks would not go unanswered, in an address reported by IRNA.

In air action, Iraq launched strikes on the Ahvaz and Marun oil fields, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, and claimed another attack on a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast. For Iran's part, a military report cited by IRNA claimed that two Iraqi warplanes were downed 8 May over the Al-Faw area, while an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA 9 May rebutted the Iranian allegations and termed them "sheer lies."

DRA-Iran

The DRA made a strong protest to Iran over a news conference given by "counterrevolutionaries" in Tehran 3 May, during which the DRA-Pakistani talks were attacked, according to Kabul radio. The authorities called for an immediate halt to such "hostile propaganda" and predicted that such "unfriendly" actions will only serve to "disrupt" bilateral relations. Citing the news conference as a continuation of an "unbridled anti-Soviet campaign," TASS chided Iran's "pan-Islamic tendencies" and its "growing aggressiveness" with regard to the DRA. It also noted that the current anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan "hullabaloo" is being "whipped up" in Iran at a time when conditions "exist" for making "progress" for a "political settlement" around Afghanistan.

In another protest, the DRA strongly denounced Iranian "assistance" in a 29 April attack by Afghan "counterrevolutionaries" on Qazi Deh village in which 12 Afghans were killed, 2 more wounded, and one captured, Kabul radio reported. The protest alleged that Iranian Revolutionary Guards "guided" the "counterrevolutionaries" with communications equipment. The DRA demanded the return of the captured Afghan and warned of the "dangerous consequences" of such acts and asserted that a repitition will force the DRA to "defend" itself.

Iran

IRNA reported that the bus driver and assistant of a double decker bus were killed 9 May when a bomb exploded underneath the vehicle in central Tehran, and blamed the munafiqeen "antirevolutionaries" for the act.

Qatar

A brother of the amir, Shaykh Nasir ibn Hamad Al Thani, was admitted to a London hospital "apparently" suffering from a "serious gunshot wound," according to London PRESS ASSOCIATION. Qatari sources have not been observed to report this.

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Iran's Role in Border Attack Protested

LD081845 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Afghan counterrevolutionaries, deploying various weapons and with the assistance of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, launched an attack on the border militia of (Qazi) village [words indistinct] District on the night of 29 April.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard [words indistinct] guided the counterrevolutionaries with communications equipment. The attack resulted in 12 inhabitants of the village being martyred, 2 injured, and 1 abducted.

The DRA Government (?denounces) this action of the Iranian authorities whereby 12 of our innocent compatriots were martyred, 2 persons were injured, and 1 abducted. It is making a strong protest and demands the return of the captured Afghan national. It asks the relevant Iranian authorities to discover who were the perpetrators of this cruel aggression and killing, and to punish them. It calls for an end to such adventurist and inhumane actions which are contrary to all accepted international norms and standards, goodneighborly relations, and the principles of human dignity.

In conclusion the DRA reserves the right to demand compensation for all damage inflicted as a result of these aggressive actions.

In this connection it announces that in the event of a repetition of aggression [words indistinct], the DRA will be obliged to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and safeguard the rights of its subjects [words indistinct]. Under these circumstances the dangerous consequences stemming from this will rest on the respective government of this embassy. [as heard]

Pakistani Claims of Border Violations Rejected

LD081737 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The Pakistani charge d' Affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today at 1200 and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section: In order to divert the attention of its people from the disturbing situation in Pakistan, the government of that country has alleged that the DRA Armed Forces violated the (Laka Tega) area, Khurram Agency on 27 April, 1986, as well as the Tor Khan border post; on 28 April, the (Chah-e Amu) area and the Sardam and Baregah villages, Bajaur Agency; on 29 April once again the (Laka Tega) area, Khurram Agency and the Nawa (Dara) Kalay, Mohmand Agency; on 3 May, Nawa Khola, Mohmand Agency and the Ali Mangal border post, Khurram agency.

After all-round investigations, the DRA regards these allegations as groundless and far from the truth and resolutely rejects them. It adds that the Pakistani authorities should stop these kind of allegations, which result in nothing but an aggravation of the situation on the borders.

Najibullah, Karmal Address PDPA Politburo Session

LD081642 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 8 May (BAKHTAR) — A regular PDPA Central Committee Politburo session was held this morning. The session assessed the work of the Prosecutor's Office concerning the observation of revolutionary legality, the strengthening of struggle against abuses, bribery, embezzlement and other negative manifestations.

It was stated in the session that the DRA Prosecutor's Office is rendering a certain amount of work toward the defense of the interests of the state and the people, the cessation of attempts to abuse public cooperative and private property, the purification of society from the existence of criminal elements, and the consolidation of revolutionary legality. However, the Politburo states that serious defects exist in the work of the Prosecutor's Office and its work is sometimes not in accordance with the demands of revolution and the decisions of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

Struggle toward discovering and prevention of crimes -- particularly crimes against the economy of the country -- the state's defense capability, abuses, and deviation from laws is being carried out weakly. Evidence exists that large dossiers on the embezzlement of millions of afghanis from the public domain remain have gone unattended and without timely assessment for several years. A few years ago, criminals who stole even a few sers [a ser equals 7 kilograms] were handed over to the law, whereas persons who have embezzled millions of afghanis from state and public property accounts have not been brought under investigation.

The Politburo has entrusted the Attorney General's Department and the Prosecutor's Offices with the duty of raising the level of discipline and feeling of responsibility of their staff to supervise the implementation of revolutionary legality, and to adopt fundamental principles in the appointment of individuals to the prosecutor's offices. The appointment of cadres should be based on their political worthiness, loyalty, abstinence, humility and their professional and practical readiness. Active supervision of the observance of laws in the state economic, cooperative and private sectors should be maintained and the level of discipline and investigations enhanced.

The Politburo commissioned the party Control Commission and the justice and defense section of the PDPA Central Committee, in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office to investigate a number of matters concerning the method and state of supervision over the implementation of revolutionary legality. The results of the work of students and pupils brigades in the course of last year [ending 20 March 1986], and the adoption of measures toward their improved utilization in the construction and exploitation of national economic projects were appraised. It was pointed out that the DYOA Central Committee is carrying out good work [words indistinct] in the organization and the creation of brigades of students and pupils for fruitful productive work in national economic projects and in their participation in executing political work among the people during their vacation. The tasks rendered have yielded positive results and should become a matter of interest and support of the state, party and social organs. The enhancement of the productive and social activity of

youths is of great importance for the national economy and for patriotic training. Necessary and concise orders should be introduced in the work of the brigades.

The Politburo heard a report on the participation of Comrade Rafi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and head of the PDPA delegation, in the 13th BCP Congress.

It was pointed out that the participation of the PDPA delegation in the work of the congress and the talks held in connection with the consolidation of relations between the parties, governments and peoples of the DRA and Bulgaria were fruitful and beneficial.

The work of the delegation was assessed as positive.

In the course of discussion on topics on the agenda, Comrades Babrak Karmal, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Saleh Muhammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, Politburo members and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; Anahita Ratebzad, Politburo member and president of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan; Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Politburo member and DRA minister of communications; Muhammad Rafi, Politburo member and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the Politburo and DRA minister of defense; Sulayman La'eq, candidate member of the Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs; Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee; Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the political affairs in the DRA Army; Mir Saheb Karwal and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; and a number of other comrades addressed the session.

Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee comprehensively assessed the work of the meeting and spoke in detail concerning the further improvement of the practical realization of the aspirations of the April Revolution.

Najibullah Receives Congratulation Messages

Hungary's Kadar

LD081240 Budapest MTI in English 1136 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Budapest, May (MTI) — Janos Kadar, general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, congratulated in a telegram Dr Najibollah on his election general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Cuba's Castro

LD072314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] The following congratulatory telegram from F. Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Kabul addressed to Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

Comrade Najib, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Kabul, Afghanistan: Please accept our congratulations on the occasion of your election as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

At this time we renew our solidarity with the revolution of Afghanistan in the struggle against imperialist intervention, which openly strengthens and supports the counterrevolutionaries and opposes every just solution through talks, which bring the gift of peace and respect for the sovereignty of your country.

I am fully confident that the existing fraternal relations between the two parties and our people will yet again develop further.

I wish you success in your duties in the leadership of party work.

[Signed] F. Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee of Cuba

Start of Ramadan Noted; Muslims Urged To Pray

LD090838 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR: The Muslim and religious people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan hail the holy month of Ramadan which starts from 9 May 1986.

During the month Taraweh prayers and Korankhowani (Koran reading) will be held in all mosques in the capital and all provinces of the country.

With start of this month the office working hours will start from 7 am and will terminate at 1 pm in the afternoon. The total work hours per day will be six hours.

In a special statement issued on the occasion by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Trust Properties of the DRA it is hoped that the Afghans will perform this divine prayer with patience and Islamic character, performing it in with free and Islamic morality before Almighty God.

The statement further ask the countrymen to pray for the prosperity and well-being of all the people, our beloved country and for the consolidation of peace in the DRA and the world as a whole.

Reportage on National Parliamentary Elections

President 'Disgusted' With UK MP's

BK081628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 8 (AFP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said his Jatiya Party would win about half the seats in Bangladesh's new parliament Thursday, as the opposition called for protests against alleged poll fraud.

Lieutenant General Ershad, speaking to several reporters at his army chief's residence here, said the opposition Awami League-led alliance would take about 80 seats. He declared the elections, held under martial law, a success.

If rigging had taken place at some stations, the election commission could order new polls in those places, he said, adding that voting had been suspended in 282 polling stations out of 23,284.

But Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said: "We will start agitations and protests" agianst poll rigging. The Awami League, who head a 15-party alliance, said it disputed several cases were former government ministers had been returned with more than 90 per cent of the vote and others where rigging took place.

Sheikh Hasina has accused the Jatiya (National) Party of organising a "complete reign of terror" and killing 25 people and injuring 500 in widespread poll fraud.

The election commission issued revised figures for some seats giving in the unofficial count the Jatiya 81 seats, the Awami League Alliance 71, and independents 20. But after revising the count, no more results were announced and after more than three hours no explanation had yet to be given. Another 116 of the 300 seats still had to be announced.

Earlier Thursday an all-party British parliamentary group said that the Jatiya Party had been the main offenders in poll rigging. "They were responsible for turning what could and should have been an historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the group's report said.

Former British Labour Party minister Lord Ennals and Conservative MP Martin Brandon-Branvo issued the damning document based on visits to 35 polling stations. They listed attacks on Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations multiple voting, closure of polling centres and claims of 100 per cent turnout.

The two men went to polling stations in Dhaka, its surroundings and the Roazan constitutency some 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of the eastern port of Chittagong. They were invited to observe the elections by the only non-government watchdog body, the People's Commission for Free Elections. They were due to leave Thursday night.

Lt. Gen. Ershad, who said he had written a poem in praise of the election on polling day, said he was "disgusted" with the British parliamentarians. "We are not bothered by what they say." He would not give a date for the lifting of martial law — which all parties have called for. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) refused to participate in the elections because they were held under martial law.

Parliament would convene within a month of the official publication of the results, he said, but he would not say whether martial law would be lifted before or after presidential elections are held. The new parliament would have to adopt regulations passed under martial law, he said, because they had taken part in elections under martial [unfinished sentence as received]

President Ershad has been bitterly criticised by opposition leaders for not maintaining neutrality in the campaign. His pictures appeared on virtualy all Jatiya Party posters. Although he is not officially a member of the Jatiya Party, which was launched only this year, he said the new government would continue his policies, because they were the best for the country.

Nearly 48 million of the 100 million population of Bangladesh was called to vote. Gen. Ershad said he thought the turnout had been between 45 per cent and 50 percent, which he said was average in Bangladesh.

In the latest unofficial poll count, the Awami League had 53 seats, its allies 18 — five of them to the Communist Party. The fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami had eight seats and the Moslem League three.

UK MP's on Election 'Tragedy'

BK080810 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Dhaka, May 8 (AFP) — The Bangladesh elections were a "tragedy for democracy" and the main offenders in violence and rigging were the government-backed party, a British parliamentary group report said here Thursday.

Former Labour Party minister Lord Ennals and Conservative Party MP Martin Brandon-Bravo found the elections were "neither free nor fair" in their report for the British all-parliamentary group on Bangladesh. The report was presented to a press conference here Thursday before the group's returns to Britain.

In a damning document based on visits to 35 polling stations, the group concluded: "The principle offenders in rigging the elections were the Jatiya Party (government-backed)."

"They were responsible for turning what could and should have been a historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the report said.

The report listed attacks on opposition Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations, multiple voting, closure of polling stations and claims of 100 percent voting.

The three men toured polling stations in Dhaka and its surrounds and the Roazan constituency 20 miles (32 kms) north of the eastern port of Chittagong.

The government has said 12 people died in poll violence and 284 polling centres suffered disturbances. Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed has said 25 people died and 500 were injured during the vote.

Announcement of Results Postponed

BK090327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In Bangladesh the announcement of the election results was abruptly postponed late last night after the returns showed that the government-backed Jatiya Party was trailing in the latest counts.

Of 186 results declared out of 300, the Jatiya Party has bagged 81 seats, while the opposition party and the independents have secured 105 seats. The Awami League has secured 55 seats.

Meanwhile, the Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, renewed charges of massive rigging in the polls and demanded fresh elections in at least 50 constituencies. She has claimed a landslide victory in the elections.

Further Details on Postponement

BK090347 Hong Kong AFP in English 0330 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 9 (AFP) — The Bangladesh election count was postponed early Friday [9 May] with the government-backed Jatiya (National) Party on the lead, the election commission announced.

The Jatiya Party, which has the support of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, had polled 81 seats in an unofficial revised count and its rival Awami League, which heads a 15-party alliance, 71.

The commission announced the postponement of complete and partial results in 116 of the 300 constituencies until it knew how many constituencies would require fresh elections.

President Ershad, who held the vote under martial law on Wednesday, said Thursday night the Jatiya would win about half the seats and the Awami alliance about 80. Speaking to reporters at his army chief's residence here, he declared the elections a success, adding that voting had been suspended in 282 polling stations out of 23,984.

But Awami League Leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said "we will start agitations and protests" against poll rigging.

The Awami League said it disputed several cases where former government ministers had been returned with more than 90 per cent of the vote and results in other polling stations where rigging alledgedly took place.

Sheikh Hasina has accused the Jatiya Party of organising a "complete reign of terror" and killing 25 people and injuring 500 in widespread poll fraud.

An all-party British parliamentary group on Bangladesh published the findings of its two-man observer team on the elections here on Thursday. It said the Jatiya Party had been the main offenders in poll rigging and violence. "They were responsible for turning what could and should have been an historic return to democracy in Bangladesh into a tragedy for democracy," the report said.

Former British Labour Minister Lord Ennals and Conservative MP Martin Brandon-Bravo issued the damning document based on visits to 35 poling stations. They listed attacks an on Awami League supporters, throwing of molotov cocktails, seizure of polling stations, multiple voting, closure of polling stations and claims of 100 per cent turnout.

The two men went to polling stations in Dhaka and its surroundings and the Roazan constituency some 32 kilometres (20 miles) north of the eastern port of Chittagong. They were invited here by the only non-government watchdog body, the People's Commission for Free Elections.

Lieutenant General Ershad, who said he had composed a poem in praise of the elections, said he was "totally disgusted" with the British parliamentarians. He would not give a date for the lifting of martial law — which all parties have called for. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) refused to participate in the elections because it was held under martial law.

Lt. Gen. Ershad said the new parliament would convene within a month of the official publication of the election results, but would not clarify whether martial law would be lifted before or after presidential elections. There is no date for presidential elections either.

The new Jatiya government would continue the policies of the military regime, President Ershad said, they were the best for the country. The Jatiya Party was launched at the start of this year. He said the army should have a role in association with the new administration, but if parliament decided otherwise then so be it.

Nearly 48 million of the 100 million population of Bangladesh was called on to vote. Gen. Ershad said he thought the turnout had been between 45 per cent and 50 per cent, which he said was average in Bangladesh.

When the poll count was halted the Awami League had 53 seats, its allies 18 — five of them to the communist party. The fundamentalist Jami'at-e Islami had eight seats and the Moslem League three.

Unofficial Results Received

BK090612 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0500 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission received as of 0800 this morning complete unofficial results from the returning officers of 293 centers. Out of that, unofficial final results of 184 centers have been announced.

Voting in some of the centers in nine areas was stopped due to some external reasons and thus it was not possible to announce the unofficial results of these centers. Only after getting the written reports of the returning officers of these areas will the commission take the necessary steps.

Also, the Election Commission has received partial reports from 50 centers. The complete results of these centers are expected to be announced by this evening.

Press Note on British Report

BK090722 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0500 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] In a press note issued last night, the Election Commission categorically stated that the commission set up in accordance with the Constitution has the authority to conduct and supervise the elections and no person or institution has any legal right to assume this authority. If anyone does, it will be considered as void and as an incursion into the jurisdiction of the commission.

Referring to the visit of three British nationals, the commission said that their acts amount to an interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The press note said that the attention of the Election Commission was drawn to press interviews and reports made by the three British nationals, who are currently visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of a committee formed by the People's Commission to see the parliamentary election in the country.

The reports [words indistinct] troubles in some of the polling centers. Some tragic incidents took place during election day and some people were killed and property damaged. These incidents marred the peaceful atmosphere in some of the polling centers where elections had to be postponed. Except for these centers, elections were held peacefully in other parts of the country.

The press note said that the three foreign nationals had been invited by a commission set up by one of the 28 political parties taking part in the election. Naturally, questions have been raised about the impartiality of the commission as all their movements and activities are normally influenced by this party.

The press note said that these 3 foreign nationals had only visited 35 polling centers apparently selected by their party. There are 47 million voters and 23,000 polling centers throughout the country and, therefore, it is not correct to pass judgement or opinion about the whole country by visiting only a few centers.

The official results are yet to be published; even the announcement of unofficial results has not yet been completed. To reach a verdict about the fairness of the entire election at this stage is not only a hasty generalization but is also unfair.

Further Reportage on Situation in Punjab State

Resigning Ministers Suspended From Party

BK080945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] In Punjab, the three ministers who resigned recently have been expelled by the Akali Dal president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, from the primary membership of the party for 6 years. They are: Mr Sukhjinder Singh, Mr Amrinder Singh, and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur. According to a party spokesman, the action is being taken for their antiparty activities. These ministers had resigned last week in protest against the entry of police in the Golden Temple complex to flush out terrorists, antinationals and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] elements.

Akali Dal Party Splits

BK081611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The Akali Dal legislature party in Punjab has split. The party formally split today with the speaker of the assembly giving recognition to the 27-member separate group of the party. A notification issued by the assembly in Chandigarh said that these members sent a signed representation yesterday to the speaker for recognition as a separate group following a political split in the Shiromani Akali Dal. The notification said the speaker today verified the voluntary nature of the declaration from the members individually who had signed the representation. It said the speaker accorded the recognition after convincing himself of the authenticity of the representation.

The All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent reports that there were 73 members of the Shiromani Akali Dal in the legislative assembly. The Punjab cabinet held an informal meeting in Chandigarh this evening following the split in the Akali Dal legislature party. A resolution was passed seeking the removal of the speaker. It said the speaker has acted in a partisan manner. The resolution further added that a notice seeking the removal of the speaker is being given.

Reacting to the recognition given to split group, the chief minister, Mr Barnala, was of the view that the entire conspiracy, as he put it, was only to weaken the Shiromani Akali Dal and to destabilize the state government. Mr Barnala said the dissident legislators are only helping the extremists and anti-Panthic [anti-Sikh] forces through such actions. Describing the development as sad, the chief minister said the actual number of dissidents is not more than 18.

Earlier today, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala expelled three former Punjab ministers — Mr Amrinder Singh, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur — from the primary membership of the Akali Dal for 6 years. Reacting to the action, Mr Amrinder Singh and Mr Sucha Singh Chotepur said their expulsion form the Akali Dal is undemocratic and violative of the party's constitution.

Meanwhile in Amritsar, curfew around the Golden Temple was lifted this afternoon. It was imposed yesterday as a precautionary 9easure.

Bhagat Lauds U.S. Anti-Extremist Steps

BK081055 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The United States has informed India that it will take steps to deny extremists a base of operations in that country for actions against India. It said from January last year, a U.S. law makes it mandatory to have a license by any training camp before it gives training to foreign nationals in the use of arms.

The external affairs minister informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that the steps taken by the United States have helped in improving the climate for the development of India-U.S. relations.

Gandhi Postpones Mauritius Visit Until July

AB071240 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Port Louis, May 7 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has postponed until July a visit he was to have begun next Monday to the Indian Ocean island state of Mauritius, it was announced here late Tuesday.

The statement said that the exact date for the visit would be announced jointly by both countries. An Indian delegation is already in Mauritius to prepare the visit.

'Moderate' Earthquake in Peshawar Recorded 8 May

BK080816 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] There was an earthquake of moderate intensity in Peshawar early this morning.

The epicenter of the earthquake was located in the Hindu Kush Mountains about 200 km north of Peshawar. The intensity of the quake was measured at 5 on the Richter Scale.

There is no report of any loss of life or property.

Pakistan People's Party: Sever Ties With U.S.

GF081248 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 1 May 86 p 5

[Text] Sahival — Young men of Pakistan are always ready to enlist in the Libyan army and go to war against the United States.

If the government does not review its relations with the United States then the Pakistani people will rise in support of the people of Libya and responsibility for the consequences will rest on the shoulders of the present regime.

These views were expressed in a press conference by Zakir Hussain Bral, president of the Noor Shah Pakistan People's Party. He appealed to the Islamic countries to immediately sever relations with the United States.

He added that it was the responsibility of the members of the National Assembly of Pakistan, the senate, and the provincial assemblies to call an emergency session and put pressure on the regime to sever relations and announce an economic boycott against the United States.

Soviet Ambassador Meets With Asghar Khan

GF081254 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 3 May 86 p 1

[Text] Abbotabad, 2 May — Abdul Rehman Vezirov, Soviet ambassador in Pakistan, today called on his excellency Asghar Khan, president of the Tehrik-i Istiqlal Party, at his residence and stayed there 2 hours. A number of national affairs were discussed at this meeting.

The former commander of the Pakistan Air Force, Air Marshal (Rtd) Nur Khan, also called on his excellency Asghar Khan at his residence today.

NEPAL

Man Dies Trying To Plant Bomb at Katmandu Airport

BK081418 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpt] Katmandu, May 8 (AFP) — A man died when a bomb he was trying to plant at Katmandu airport detonated in Nepal's third explosion Thursday aimed at scaring citizens away from polls Monday, a highly placed official source said.

The unidentified man was a member of an underground India-based militant organization led by Ram Raja Prasad Singh which opposes Nepal's partyless government system, the source said.

Two other powerful bombs set by suspected Nepalese opposed to Monday's election went off in the southern city of Birgunj early Thursday, an official source said. No injuries were reported.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Separatist Group Admits Killing Rival Leader

NC081943 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] New Delhi, May 8 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group admitted Thursday it was responsible for the killing of a rival group's leader Tuesday, the PRESS TRUST of INDIA reported.

A spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Madras said Sri Sabaratnam, chief of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), was killed in a gun battle between rival guerrillas at the TELO hideout in Kondavil village in northern Sri Lanka, PTI said.

A TELO spokesman meanwhile confirmed Mr. Sabaratnam's death but added that his group would not be disbanded and would continue its guerrilla campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka's north and east, PTI said. It is the first admission by TELO that its leader is dead. In earlier statements, it had claimed Sabaratnam was alive and in hiding.

A.S. Balasingam, the official LTTE spokesman, was quoted by PTI as saying that Mr. Sabaratnam was killed when he refused to surrender. His second-in-command, Mohan, was wounded and captured by LTTE guerrillas, who released him later, PTI said. The TELO spokesman, however, denied that Mr. Mohan had been released, the agency said.

The two rival groups recently fought a five-day battle which ended last Saturday, leaving 150 guerrillas dead.

Death Toll in Colombo Blast Rises to 12

BK081200 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Twelve persons have died in the explosion at the CTO [Central Telegraph Office] building in Colombo yesterday. According to the additional secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, S.G. Samarasinghe, 5 of the dead are now confirmed as employees; 60 of the injured are now warded at the Colombo General Hospital. The ministry activities in all branches are being conducted as usual and reports indicate a satisfactory level of attendance. A total of 114 persons were injured by the bomb blast. Of these, 56 received OPD [Out Patient Department] treatment. Last night, the condition of about 20 persons was reported to be serious. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion that rocked the CTO building yesterday.

The government believes that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] was responsible for it. The same group was responsible for Saturday's [3 May] blast which destroyed an Air Lanka Tristar at the Katunayake airport. These attacks indicate that the LTTE is no longer interested in a peaceful settlement to the ethnic problem. LTTE leaders like Valupillai Prabhakaran and Anthony Balasingham are based in Tamil Nadu.

The government also notes with concern the leader of the TULF, A. Amirthalingam's, statement to a Swedish newspaper journalist a few hours after the Air Lanka disaster where he said this is only the beginning of an offensive and that more bomb blasts (?are) to be expected. This proves that Mr Amirthalingam is aware of the terrorist plans to kill innocent civilians.

The Ministry of National Security in a statement regarding the wide publicity given by the foreign media to a telephone call received at the London office of ASSOCIATED PRESS claiming that the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] is responsible for the bomb blast at the CTO yesterday says that it may be a trick by Eelam terrorists to put the blame on a Sinhalese extremist group. It further states that the government is also aware that even state-owned media of some countries have given much publicity to this telephone call.

The government has reiterated that it believes that the CTO bomb was planted by terrorists who seem to be determined to [words indistinct] any negotiated settlement to the ethnic problem. Following the Air Lanka and the CTO bomb blast, Eelam supporters in the Western world are losing sympathy that they hitherto enjoyed as the true face of Eelam terrorism is beginning to appear very vividly. In the circumstances, it is quite understandable that Eelam activists are trying various ruses to evade responsibility for spilling the blood of innocent civilians.

The Colombo international airport at Katunayake has been declared a prohibited area under the emergency and only passengers incoming and outward and authorized persons will be allowed access to it. The competent authority, Colonel H.B. Vijaykon, said that these restrictions are necessary in the wake of Saturday's Tristar bombing.

'Terrorists' Attack Village; Kill 4 Muslims

BK071143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 May 86

[Text] Reports say that 4 Muslim villagers were killed and 10 others seriously wounded when a gang of about 40 terrorists went

berserk and attacked the village of Kinniya in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka early yesterday morning.

The terrorists had set fire at the shops and houses and fired mortars on the village. This is the first time that mortar was used by the terrorists to attack a village. About 40 houses and shops were destroyed. Residents fled the village in fear and sought refuge in other areas.

The attack is said to be a reprisal by the terrorists following the arrest of two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] members by Muslim Home Guards from Kinniya on Sunday [4 May]. Two terrorists have later committed suicide.

Over 2.8 Billion Rupees Approved for Defense
BK081152 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Parliament today approved five supplementary estimates for defense involving a sum of 2,855 million rupees. Speaking on the occasion, the member for Mahraragama, Dinesh Gunewardene, called on the government for the proper utilization of this money.

The MP for Medawachchiya, Maithripala Senanayake, said that the people of Taminakulna, affected by terrorist actions, have been resettled in their former places of residence with the assistance of the army and urged the government to provde them with road and housing facilities.

The MP for Attanagalla, Lakshma Jayakody, said that it was important to take measures to protect the country and added that they were not against the allocation of these funds for defense purposes. Mr Jayakody wanted to know whether a proposal has been made to India regarding the terrorist bases in south India and on joint naval patrol.

In his reply, the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that Sri Lanka had on several occasions proposed the establishment of joint naval patrol activities to India. However, the Indian Government has so far not responded to these proposals. Mr Athulathmudali also disclosed that the government had informed in writing about the presence of terrorist camps, and also foreign media personnel have highlighted the presence of these camps in Indian territory. But the Indian Government does not seem to be taking action to dismantle the camps.

SUN Comments on Indian Plan To Solve Ethnic Issue
BK081458 Colombo SUN in English 2 May 86 p 1, 5

[Text] India has an "alternative plan" on hand to resolve the Sri Lankan conflict in case the on-going round of talks in Colombo between Indian and Sri Lankan negotiators fails it is reported from Madras.

A leading Tamil Nadu Cabinet Minister has gone on record as stating that if these talks failed the Indian government, in consultation with the Tamil Nadu government would implement the plan they had already agreed on.

No further details were revealed of this "alternative plan," however.

A public announcement to this effect was made from Coimbatore in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister, S. Ramachandran, and subsequently reported in the pro-MGR Government newspaper, *NEWS TODAY*.

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister, S. Ramachandran has been deputised for the state's ruling Chief Minister, M.G. Ramachandran, in his government's dealings on what they refer to as the "Sri Lanka Tamil issue."

The Minister has referred to the current visit of India's Union Minister of State P. Chidambaram to Colombo along with Romesh Bhandari and two Indian Government officials, and added that India has an alternative plan on hand if these talks fail.

Minister Ramachandran who has represented the Tamil Nadu Government on behalf of Sri Lanka Tamil militant organisations at New Delhi and the United Nations, was speaking at a function organised by the government.

He criticised Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali for saying that if his (Sri Lanka) government's latest proposals were not accepted by Tamil militants, they would be dealt with militarily.

"India will not allow the Tamils to be mercilessly slaughtered by the Sri Lankan security forces." Minister Ramachandran is reported to have said.

This was the first disclosure by a senior Tamil Nadu Cabinet Minister that the Indian along the narrow Palk Straits Central Government already had agreed on a plan with the Tamil Nadu State Government on Sri Lanka. [sentence as published]

It followed a statement made a fortnight ago by the Tamil Nadu Fisheries Minister in the Legislative Assembly that New Delhi had ordered Indian warships and fighter planes to be stationed which divide Sri Lanka and India.

A Sri Lanka Government spokesman yesterday called these statements "provocative" and said they attempted to instill fear in Sri Lanka by hinting of an invasion plan.

President Warns Iraq Against Bombing Cities

LD081805 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday warned that if the Baghdad regime resumed "the war of cities, we will inflict such a severe blow on it that the world could also hear it." He stressed that the Islamic Republic would not leave Iraqi aggressions on Iran's industrial and economic centers unanswered.

Iraqi planes Wednesday bombed an oil installation in southern Tehran damaging it slightly. Five people were martyred and a number of others wounded in this attack. Residential areas in a number of other western Iranian cities were also attacked over the past week as a result of which scores of civilian casualties were inflicted.

"We openly declare today that we will not tolerate these (Iraqi) vicious acts and will inflict such a blow on the Baghdad regime to make it sorry for starting and entering this fire game," said President Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council, in a gathering of tribal volunteer forces before their departure to the war fronts.

Civilian Attacks Condemned During Friday Prayers

LD091120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] On the occasion of the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan, the politico-ideological sermons of the Friday prayers were delivered today in most of the centers of the country. The inhabitants of Tehran too, attended the Friday prayers led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani, and were present inside Tehran University and its surrounding thoroughfares. The Tehran Friday prayers ceremonies were also attended by more than five divisions of tribesmen from the Basij unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and hundreds of students of the Islamic Open University, who departed for the battlefronts of war at the close of the prayer ceremonies.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani in today's sermons, referring to the latest desperate movements of the Iraqi regime, stated that from the point of view of international law, war has always been confined to battlefronts, and the defenseless inhabitants of cities have been protected from enemy attack. But the Iraqi regime in the past few days has attacked some residential areas. We have an explanation for this desperate move: The aggressor Iraqi regime cannot sustain its resistance on the battlefronts and is being defeated and, in order to boost the morale of its troops, it has embarked on such moves.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani, warning international organizations and world powers, stated: Do not support the Iraqi regime through organizing your sessions, because such action on your part and support for the Iraqi regime emboldens that criminal further and makes the region all the more insecure. It is incumbent on all Muslims, especially during this blessed month of Ramadan, to support the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Further Details

GF091356 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 May 86

[Friday Arabic sermon delivered by Emami-Kashani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 9 May — recorded]

[Excerpt] Muslims: The aggressive Iraqi regime has imposed an unjust war against us. Although condemnation of the aggression and the aggressor is among the primary duties of the Islamic countries, we have noticed, regrettably, that some of these countries have supported Iraq in its aggressions. I do not know where the Muslim and human conscience has gone. Such behavior and statements hostile to Islamic Iran have caused Saddam's regime in Iraq to become more and more daring. Recently it carried out brutal air raids against Iranian cities and populated areas in order to cover up its defeats on the warfronts and its feebleness in the field of right, and in order to mislead world public opinion by alleging that it has destroyed military and industrial installations. In reality its attacks are carried out against cities and secure areas.

We have repeatedly stated that such crimes will lead to the enhancement of the degree of steadfastness and right among our Muslim people. We announce to the Muslim world that this unjust war was imposed on us, and we fight in accordance with our divine duty, and will continue to fight until the criminal aggressor is toppled. We announce our regret when we have to respond in like fashion to such crimes. However, if the ruling bloodthirsty regime in Iraq persists in perpetrating these crimes, and if the Islamic Republic feels that the war has been transferred from the warfronts to the cities and populated areas, our response will be decisive and firm.

O sons of the Islamic nation, warn some of the rulers of the Islamic countries against persisting in their continuous and open support for this bloodthirsty criminal. Perform your divine duty in this blessed month, the month of worship and piety. Today the Islamic Republic's feast is the greatest duty and worship, because this is considered a defense of Islam, right, justice, peace, and security [sentence as heard] Know that any support for the atheistic Iraqi regime will be deemed support for disbelief, arrogance, and injustice. There is no strength except through Almighty God.

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you. I take refuge in God from the evil one. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "By the token of time, verily man is in loss, except such as have faith, and do righteous deeds, and join together in the mutual teaching of truth and of patience and constancy". [Koranic verse]

Two Killed in Central Tehran Bomb Explosion

LD091114 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA — A bomb planted by Munafiqeen [Mojahedin-e Khalq] anti-revolutionaries underneath a double-decker bus exploded in a main street in Central Tehran Friday

morning martyring the driver and his assistant, who were the only ones in the bus.

The explosives said to be 8 pounds of TNT were placed underneath a seat in the first row of the public bus which went off at 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT) in front of the "Daneshju" (student) park on Enqelab (Revolution) Ave.

There were no communters on the bus at time of the explosion which severely damaged the bus.

The explosion work of the Munafiqeen counterrevolutionaries, martyred the driver immediately and his assistant was martyred on the way to hospital.

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanese Muslims

LD081750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] The League of Lebanese Muslims delegation met today with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting Mr Velayati discussed the Islamic revolution movement which has injected new life into the body politic of the nations of the Third World and of Islamic countries. He also spoke of the great role played by the clergy in the leadership of the Islamic revolution and stated:

In Lebanon, considering the Islamic nature of the people and the resistence movement of the people, it is only natural that the ulema should be the vanguards of this movement; and our enemies are very fearful of these activities and by means of various plots they are trying to weaken the unity and solidarity of this resistance.

Mr Velayati added: One of the ways to defeat the Islamic revolution is to create factionalism and strife among Muslims, both Sunnis and Shi'ites. The real objective of the enemies is to cause these two communities to confront each other.

Thus all struggles should be based and built upon fraternal and sincere unity, and, God be praised, the League of Lebanese Muslim Ulema has made some advances in this direction and has been successful in establishing unity, up to now.

Then one of the Sunni ulema of the League of Lebanese Muslim Ulema reported on the latest developments in Lebanon and stated: Even though we are far from Iranian territory, from a geographical standpoint, our heart always beats for the sake of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and if we have now come here it is because we will be taking back to Lebanon with us the cherished gifts of spiritual values and steadfastness, self-sacrifice and martyrdom from this blessed country, and transfer these to our own people. And in truth, we, in the league of the ulema, will try to establish real unity between Sunni and Shi'ite brothers, and we take pride in offering this blessed movement as a practical experience to the rest of the Muslim brothers from one end of the Islamic world to the other. And all this is due to the blessings of the victory of Islam and to its illustrious leader, Imam Khomeyni.

Musavi Chairs Meeting on Nationals Abroad

LD081049 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — The political Council of the cabinet ministers in a session here Thursday morning presided over by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi discussed issue of the Iranians abroad. Prime Minister Musavi referring to conditions of certain Iranians abroad said that although these belonged to a different political and ideological category, yet the government could not shirk its responsibility towards its citizens.

The Islamic principles call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the situation of these people so that those with no criminal records and those who are not dangerous to peace and security of the people could be able to return if they wished so, he told the session. Also conditions be provided for those who do not wish to return to Iran to keep their ties with the Iranian culture and the country, said the prime minister.

He further told the session that deviated elements inside the country who have turned the west into their utopia should take lessons from the fate of certain Iranians in alien countries who are suffering from humiliation.

During the session Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ershad-e Eslami [Islamic Guidance], and Information were assigned to investigate the issue and present solutions to the council in this respect.

Reports on Bush, Saddam Meeting in Dhahran Cited

GF091050 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] The weekly *AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI* [Islamic action] has reported that an Iraqi delegation that included Saddam personally met with U.S. Vice President George Bush during his recent tour of the region. Arab media have referred to the meeting which has not been confirmed by officials.

AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI says that Arab newspapers have revealed that a meeting took place between an Iraqi delegation and George Bush during the latter's visit to Saudi Arabia [5-7 April]. However, because Saddam personally attended the meeting, Saudi officials have denied that such a meeting took place.

AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI says that the Iraqi delegation, led by Saddam, arrived at Dhahran military airport in Saudi Arabia aboard a private military aircraft, and that Saddam met twice with George Bush and briefed him on the latest developments in the war with Iran. *AL-'AMAL AL-ISLAMI* adds that the first meeting between Saddam and Bush was a private one, while the second meeting was attended by Fahd, the shah of Saudi Arabia. Arab sources say that the Saudi people view the city of Dhahran and most of its inhabitants as American.

During Bush's recent visit to Saudi Arabia the Saudi security forces cordoned off Dhahran and prevented ordinary Arabs from entering the city.

Customs Chief on Facilities for Non-Oil Items

GF020838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] According to IRNA, the director-general of customs announced that to provide greater facilities to increase non-oil exports, non-oil items will be exported from customs posts throughout the country.

He added: To assist the residents of border and coastal areas in the southern parts of the country in exporting non-oil products, more customs offices will be opened in the Persian Gulf region and begin operation.

The director-general of the country's customs said: To increase the awareness of the inhabitants of the border areas concerning import and export regulations and facilities that exist, special ledgers will be issued and distributed to vendors and cooperatives in the border areas.

Concerning the scale of the goods released from customs throughout the country over the past year, he said: In 1985, more than 17 million tons of goods were released from customs outlets of the country.

In the field of metallic and non-metallic minerals, Iran is the fifth richest country in the field of minerals and proper facilities for the extraction of the minerals should be provided.

In industry, only 51 percent of the country's larger factories were operational suring the past year and optimun use is not being made of the country's technical knowhow and expertise.

Possible sources of the country's entrepreneurial potential have remained untapped.

The report adds: The per capita income in industry is one-fifth of the per capita income in the services department, and the growth of investment in the industrial sector amounts to only one-third of the investment in the services department.

It is essential that compensatory measures be implemented in order to eliminate (?bottlenecks) in this department.

Karbala' Convoys Depart for War Fronts

LD082234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 May 86

[Excerpts] Today, the fourth Karbala' marchers convoy and the second Labbayk ya Imam convoy, composed of four divisions of returning volunteers and new combat-technician units of Mazandaran Province, including clergymen, workers, employees, teachers, and other strata of the committed, Muslim people of this province, left from Chalus [northern Iran] for the warfronts.

Also, (?three) brigades of student volunteer combat-technician units, composed of students, pupils and worker Basij units from Kashan, left for the theaters of war amid glorious ceremonies.

Reportage of Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Two Iraqi Planes Shot Down

LD081724 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 8 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA — Two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by tactical operations of Iranian jet fighters and surface-to-air fire of Muslim combatants in the Val-Fajr 8 operational theater (in Iraq's Al-Faw peninsula) around Thursday noon, says Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

The joint army-IRGC headquarters said that the shooting down of these two Iraqi planes brought to 75, the number of Iraqi warplanes downed since the start of the Val-Fajr 8 offensive on 9 February.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced that another Iraqi plane was shot down over the Persian Gulf Thursday.

Combat HQ Reports Successes

LD091101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 86

[Text] According to a report recieved from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters the Islamic combatants, in the course of combat-patrol operations in the area of the southern Majnun Islands and the central Hawr-Hawizah region, while destroying three boats of the Zionist enemy, succeeded in destroying large numbers of the positions and fortifications of the Saddamist forces, either killing or wounding at least 100 troops. In the course of these operations a number of enemy troops were also captured by Islam's combatants.

Our combatants also severely crushed desperate enemy moves in the Sharhani and Pich-e Angizeh areas, and after destroying a number of enemy tanks, APC's and war materiel, inflicted heavy losses on the 805th, 44th and 442d infantry brigades of the 20th Iraqi Division. During these operations large numbers of enemy troops were either killed or wounded and their bodies are littering the operational theater.

The Army Aviation Force's pilots, too, carrying out a series of sorties, set ablaze and destroyed large numbers of the military hardware of the Zionist enemy, including tanks and APC's, and the pall of smoke arising from their burning hulks can be seen in the area.

Pakistan Paper Reports on Khomeyni's Illness

GF081349 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 May 86 p 1

[Text] Tehran, 4 May — Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, continues to be ill. He has shown no sign of recovery for the last 2 days. He does not accept solid food. It is said that when the state of health of 80-year-old leader Ayatollah Khomeyni became serious, his wife Khadijeh, three daughters Fatimeh, Farideh, and Sadeqeh, and his granddaughter Maryam were sitting close to his sick bed with eyes full of tears.